

Reported Substance Use within the Juvenile SANTA Arrestee Sample

- The prevalence of self-reported substance use in this sample of adolescent arrestees is very high.
 - Based on self-report, 79% of the sample report lifetime use of alcohol; more than two-fifths report use of alcohol in the past 30 days; and nearly one-fifth have used alcohol within the preceding three days.
 - Tobacco use is also prevalent with two-thirds of juvenile arrestees ever using tobacco, more than half in the past 30 days and 45% in the last 72 hours.
 - Nearly three-quarters (71%) of the sample have used marijuana at some time, half in the past 30 days, and almost one-third (32%) have used it within the past three days.
 - Other commonly used drugs include LSD and other hallucinogens, inhalants, cocaine/crack, valium, and methamphetamine.
- Tennessee's juvenile arrestees have much higher rates of substance use than American adolescents as a whole or Tennessee high school students.
- The most commonly used substances are alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, and Valium.
- Proximate (last 72 hours) alcohol, cocaine and marijuana use is much higher among Nashville arrestees than among arrestees at other sites. Valium use is most pronounced among arrestees in Knoxville/Knox County and Putnam County in the 72 hours prior to arrest.
- The five most commonly used substance categories proximate to arrest among Tennessee's juvenile arrestees-- excluding tobacco--are marijuana, alcohol, crack/cocaine, benzodiazepines, and barbiturates/"downers". These are also the five most commonly used substance categories among adult arrestees. The single most commonly used drug proximate to arrests by juveniles is tobacco (45% had used tobacco within 72-hours of arrest).
- A higher proportion of juvenile arrestees in Nashville report using both alcohol and marijuana in the past seventy-two hours. In Nashville, 23% of juvenile arrestees report using these two substances, while for the juvenile SANTA sample as a whole, only 12% report this combination.
- One major difference from adult arrestees is the fact that 63% of juvenile arrestees report no alcohol or other drug use (excluding tobacco use) proximate to the arrest, compared to 30% of adults.